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 ACTION AF-01

B1, 1.4(D)

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|------|--------|---------|-------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| INFO | LOG-00 | CIAE-00 | C-01 | OASY-00 | DODE-00 | EUR-01 | HA-09 |
| | H-01 | INR-00 | IO-19 | L-03 | ADS-00 | NSAE-00 | NSCE-00 |
| | OIC-02 | OMB-01 | PA-01 | PM-02 | PRS-01 | P-01 | RPCS-01 |
| | SNP-00 | SP-00 | SS-00 | TRSE-00 | T-00 | USIE-00 | RPE-01 |
| | /045W | | | | | | |

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O 221501Z MAR 93
 FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3382
 INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
 AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
 AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA
 AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
 AMEMBASSY KAMPALA
 AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
 AMEMBASSY PARIS
 USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECJ5-P/ETCC//
 USMISSION GENEVA
 USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 KIGALI 01218

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
 TAGS: PINS, PGOV, PREL, MOPS, RW
 SUBJECT: PEACE AND POLITICS

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 REF: KIGALI 01116

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: THE JOINT MEETING OF THE PRESIDENT AND PRIME MINISTER WITH SENIOR MILITARY OFFICERS PRODUCED A POSITIVE COMMUNIQUE BUT ADDITIONAL WORRIES FOR THE PRIME MINISTER ABOUT SOME HARDLINE OFFICERS. THE NUMBER AND PERSISTENCE OF RUMORS OF A POSSIBLE COUP INDICATE THAT MANY RWANDANS SHARE HIS CONCERN. THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE DEEMS A COUP MOST UNLIKELY TO

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: HARRY R MELONE
 CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.4(D)
 DECLASSIFY AFTER: 22 MAR 2013
 DATE/CASE ID: 11 JUL 2006 200601472

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SUCCEED. WE AGREE. END SUMMARY.

THE PRESIDENT AND THE MILITARY

3. THE SECOND ROUND OF THE PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH THE MILITARY HIGH COMMAND TOOK PLACE ON MARCH 17. THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE PUT OUT A WARM AND FUZZY COMMUNIQUE FOLLOWING THE MEETING, BUT OTHER SOURCES REPORT SIGNIFICANT TENSIONS WITHIN THE MILITARY AND BETWEEN THE MILITARY AND THE POLITICAL LEADERSHIP. MINISTER OF DEFENSE GASANA CONFIRMED PRIVATELY HIS ASSESSMENT THAT THE MEETING WAS USEFUL AND PRODUCTIVE, AND SEEMED PLEASED THAT MILITARY OFFICERS HAD CALLED ON THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE PRESIDENT TO MEET MORE OFTEN.

4. FOLLOWING THE MARCH 17 MEETING, THE RADIO ANNOUNCED THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION TO THE PRIME MINISTER FOR PARTICIPATING

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IN THE MEETING. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME WE CAN REMEMBER THE PRESIDENT SAYING ANYTHING NICE TO THE PRIME MINISTER IN PUBLIC. WHEN I CONGRATULATED THE PRIME MINISTER ON THIS BREAKTHROUGH ON FEBRUARY 18, HE OFFERED SOME INSIGHTS ON THE MEETING ITSELF. THE PRESIDENT HAD A RIGHT TO BE GRATEFUL TO THE PRIME MINISTER, BECAUSE HE PERMITTED HIM TO CARRY ALL OF THE QUESTIONS ON THE PEACE PROCESS, AND THE PRIME MINISTER TOOK ALL OF THE HEAT.

5. ACCORDING TO [] THERE ARE SOME MILITARY OFFICERS WHO WERE SHARPLY CRITICAL OF THE PRESIDENT FOR CAPITULATING TO THE RPF AND NOT FIGHTING ON. []

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COUP RUMORS

6. RUMORS OF A COUP HAVE BEEN FLOATING AROUND KIGALI FOR THE LAST COUPLE OF WEEKS, PRESUMABLY BY CIVILIAN AND MILITARY HARDLINERS WHO FEAR REPRISALS SHOULD THE

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RPF TAKE POWER BY FORCE. THE SCENARIO, DERIVED FROM "EVIDENCE" IN A TRACT, A CDR COMMUNIQUE, AND A PETITION HAS PLOTTERS SEIZING CONTROL OF THE GOVERNMENT, ARRESTING OR KILLING OPPOSITION LEADERSHIP, AND THEN CONTINUING NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE RPF FROM A POSITION OF UNITY AND STRENGTH. ONE VERSION HAS FRANCE SUPPORTING THE PLOTTERS. ANOTHER CONFIDENTIAL

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HAS THE HUTU LEADERSHIP OF THE RPF COLLABORATING WITH THE PLOT. ONE VERSION HAS HABYARIMANA'S ENTOURAGE SUPPORTING THE NEW ARRANGEMENT. ANOTHER DOES NOT TAKE THEM INTO ACCOUNT. ALL VERSIONS HAVE PRESIDENT HABYARIMANA DEPARTING GRACEFULLY FOR SOME FOREIGN SHORE.

7. WHEN ASKED IF COUP-PLOT RUMORS HAD AFFECTED HIS DESISION NOT TO ATTEND ARUSHA TALKS, THE DEFENSE MINISTER INTIMATED TO THE AMBASSADOR THAT HE HAD HEARD SUCH RUMORS [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] HE WAS FIRM, HOWEVER, IN HIS CONVICTION THAT NO COUP COULD SUCCEED AT THIS TIME, EVEN IF SOME OFFICERS WERE DUMB ENOUGH

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TO TRY. HE SAID THE ARMY, ALTHOUGH APOLITICAL IN
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PRINCIPLE, REFLECTS THE DIVISIONS IN THE COUNTRY, IS
NOT A MONOLITHIC BLOCK, AND MOST ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT
THEY CANNOT REOPEN THE WAR WITHOUT UNACCEPTABLE RISK
OF FURTHER DEFEATS.

8. A JOURNALIST SOURCE, A STAUNCH CRITIC OF THE
GOVERNMENT AND PERPETUAL PESSIMIST, DISCOUNTED COUP
RUMORS HE HAD FOUND SO DISTURBING A WEEK EARLIER ON
GROUNDS THAT THE SUPPOSED MILITARY PLOTTERS HAD BEEN
NEUTRALIZED. HE NOTED THAT THE ALLEGED CHIEF
PLOTTER, COL. BAGOSORA, DIRECTOR OF CABINET AT THE
DEFENSE MINISTRY, HAS BEEN SENT OFF TO ARUSHA, AND
COL. NSABIMANA, CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE ARMY, IS OUT OF
ACTION FOR SEVERAL MONTHS FOLLOWING A SERIOUS CAR
ACCIDENT (NO EVIDENCE OF FOUL PLAY HERE).

9. COMMENT: SPECULATION ABOUT A POSSIBLE COUP SEEKS
TO HAVE A WEAK FACTUAL BASE AND IS PROBABLY
FAR-FETCHED IN CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES. BUT THE RUMORS
DO REFLECT THE NERVOUSNESS AND UNCERTAINTY IN KIGALI

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AS MANY BELIEVE THEY ARE NOW LAUNCHED ON A LAST
CHANCE EFFORT FOR PEACE IN THE CURRENT ARUSHA
NEGOTIATIONS. END COMMENT. FLATEN

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